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## **FMD VACCINATION TEAMS MOVE TO ABAQULUSI AFTER A COMPLETION OF THEIR MISSION IN PONGOLA AND EDUMBE**

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's veterinary services have successfully completed vaccinations against foot-and-mouth disease in eDumbe (21 689 vaccinated cattle) and Pongola (30 152) within Zululand District by inoculating 51 841 doses and provided 43 795 ear tags. Operations are set to resume in AbaQulusi tomorrow, on April 27, 2026, with teams urging livestock farmers and cattle owners to present their animals at dip tanks for vaccination.

This forms part of the national strategy to inoculate most cattle, to ensuring livestock health and protecting farmers' livelihoods. The goal includes achieving an immunity coverage of about 80 percent of the country's livestock, building on a proven record where no animal has contracted the disease over the past 12 months. There have been animal movement restrictions, declaration of disease management areas and a ban on the country's animal products resulting in trade disruptions prior to President Cyril Ramaphosa declaring foot-and-mouth disease outbreak a national disaster in February this year.

The veterinary-led teams are expected to finalise their vaccination programme in AbaQulusi by May 04, 2026, before moving to Ulundi. It's anticipated that the entire district will be completed by May 18, 2026. The Departmental MEC, Mrs. Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, has commended the department's officials for their tireless efforts under challenging conditions, often with little rest, in stabilising the livestock industry through vaccination efforts.

ENDS.

**ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.**